

REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough consideration provided the present application. Claims 1-19 are now present in the application. Claims 3 and 11-16 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 3, and 8-12 have been amended. Claims 17-19 have been added. Claims 4 and 7 have been cancelled. Claim 1 is independent. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 & 103

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Igarashi, U.S. Patent No. 4,523,759. Claims 5, 6 and 8-10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Igarashi in view of Rogers, U.S. Patent No. 3,970,236. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

In light of the foregoing amendments to the claims, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections have been obviated and/or rendered moot. As the Examiner will note, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite a combination of elements including "a golf club head body including... a rear cavity having an opening at a rear side of the golf club head" and "the weight-adjusting hole being in communication with the rear cavity of the golf club head body". Applicants respectfully submit that the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1 is not disclosed nor suggested by the references relied on by the Examiner.

Igarashi discloses a golf club including a head 10 with an interior cavity 28, and an end cap 56 at the toe 18 with an opening 64 (see FIGs. 1, 2 and 9). Igarashi also discloses that the head 10 has a rear wall 84 (see FIGs. 3 and 4). However, the cavity 28 is enclosed by the rear wall 84, the minor wall 82, and the end cap 56, but does not have an opening at the rear wall 84. Therefore, Igarashi fails to teach “a golf club head body including... a rear cavity having an opening at a rear side of the golf club head”, and thus fails to teach “the weight-adjusting hole being in communication with the rear cavity of the golf club head body” as recited in claim 1.

With regard to the Examiner’s reliance on Rogers, this reference has only been relied on for its teachings related to the subject matter of dependent claims. Rogers also fails to disclose the above combination of elements as set forth in amended independent claim 1. Accordingly, Rogers fails to cure the deficiencies of Igarashi.

Accordingly, neither of the references utilized by the Examiner individually or in combination teach or suggest the limitations of amended independent claim 1 or its dependent claims. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 and its dependent claims clearly define over the teachings of the references relied on by the Examiner.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 are respectfully requested.

Additional Claims

Additional claims 17-19 have been added for the Examiner's consideration.

Dependent claim 17 recites "the perimeter wall is a single piece". Since independent claim 1 recites "at least one weight-adjusting hole provided in the toe of the perimeter wall", the recitation of claim 17 further limits that the at least one weight-adjusting hole is provided in the toe of the single-piece perimeter wall. Since Igarashi's hole 64 is in a separate piece (*i.e.*, the end cap 56) from the metal portion 74 (see FIG. 1 and 2), Igarashi fails to teach the above recitation of claim 17. Rogers also fails to teach the above recitation of claim 17.

Dependent claims 18 and 19 recite "the reinforcing layer fails to occupy the entire rear cavity". As shown in FIG. 4 of Igarashi, the foam 70 occupies the entire cavity 28. Therefore, Igarashi fails to teach the above recitation of claims 18 and 19. Rogers also fails to teach the above recitation of claims 18 and 19.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 17-19 are allowable due to the additional recitations included in these claims, as well as due to their respective dependence on independent claim 1.

Favorable consideration and allowance of additional claims 17-19 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject the claims, but merely to show the state of the prior art, no further comments are necessary with respect thereto.

It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the Office Action, and that as such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to send the application to Issue.

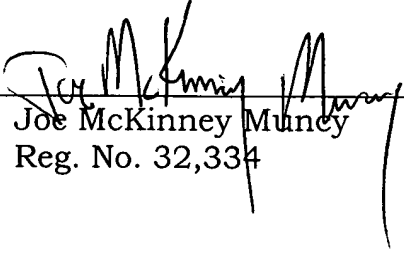
In the event there are any matters remaining in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact Joe McKinney Muncy, Registration No. 32,334 at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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